

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 /080 W

----- 121666

R 221050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4996

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSULATE DOUALA VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CM

SUBJECT: PRE-PARTY CONGRESS RUMORS RE AHIDJO WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) YAOUNDE A-7, JANUARY 20, 1975; (B) YAOUNDE 223

1. SUMMARY. WOMEN'S WING OF PARTY HAS DENOUNCED "SUBVERSIVE FORCES" FOMENTING RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT AHIDJO PLANNING NOT RPT NOT TO RUN AGAIN FOR OFFICE, AND URGED HIM TO ACCEPT RENEWED MANDATE. THIS MOVE INDICATES THAT PRESIDENT WILL INDEED REMAIN AT HELM, WHICH SHOULD SURPRISE NOBODY.

2. REF A DESCRIBING CAMEROON AND PARTY SITUATION ON EVE OF UNC CONGRESS FEB. 10-15 MENTIONS RECENT RUMORS THAT AHIDJO FED UP WITH OFFICE AND WILL NOT RPT NOT RUN AGAIN FOR PRESIDENT, ALONG WITH EMBASSY COMMENT THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO CREDIBLE INDICATIONS THAT HE WILL
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STEP DOWN. REF B TRANSMITS TEXT OF REF A SUMMARY.

3. THESE RUMORS HAVE NOW BEEN PUBLICLY AIRED FOR FIRST TIME. AT SPECIAL MEETING JAN 20 OF NATIONAL BUREAU OF OFUNC, WOMEN'S WING OF PARTY, OFUNC PRESIDENT (AND VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH) MME. DELPHINE TSANGA DECLAIMED ABOUT OFUNC'S DUTY TO "BREAK DEADLOCK OF CONFUSION AND OF DIVISION AND FRUSTRATE STRATEGY OF SUBVERSIVE FORCES WHICH ARE TRYING TO ORGANIZE IN THE SHADOWS." SHE WENT ON TO SING PRAISES OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO AND CALLED ON CAMEROONIAN WOMEN TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM AND FOR HIM TO ACCEPT NEW MANDATE OF OFFICE. BUREAU THEN ADOPTED APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT WHICH MENTIONED INTER ALIA "RUMORS CIRCULATING ACCORDING TO WHICH PRESIDENT WOULD NOT ACCEPT A NEW MANDATE," VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED SUCH SUBVERSIVE INTRIGUES, AND URGED HIM IMMEDIATELY TO ACCEPT NEW PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE.

4. IN OBVIOUSLY CONCERTED CAMPAIGN, VARIOUS OFUNC SECTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE PASSED RESOLUTION DURING PAST FEW DAYS URGING PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT NEW MANDATE.

5. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED CAMEROON TRIBUNE JAN 21, MME TSANGA STRESSED WOMEN'S SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT AND DESIRE ENCOURAGE HIM TO CONTINUE HIS GOOD WORK. IN SO DOING, SHE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE, AS HUMAN BEING, HAS PERIODS OF DEJECTION, DIFFICULTIES OF ALL SORTS BEING INHERENT IN ANY HUMAN UNDERTAKING."

6. COMMENT. TECHNICALLY THESE VARIOUS OFUNC RESOLUTIONS ARE PREMATURE SINCE NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU TO BE ELECTED AT PARTY CONGRESS WILL NOMINATE UNC'S PRESIDENTIAL "CANDIDATE". BUT PRACTICALLY, THIS OFUNC ACTIVITY, AND ESPECIALLY THE EXPLICIT DENUMCIATION AT THE NATIONAL BUREAU MEETING OF RUMORS THAT AHIDJO WOULD NOT RUN, WOULD SEEM TO SIGNIFY: (A) THAT THE RUMORS ARE INDEED INCORRECT AND THAT AHIDJO DOES INTEND TO RUN AGAIN-- MME. TSANGA WOULD NOT TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL; AND (B) THAT THE RUMORS PROBABLY INVOLVE A PURPOSEFUL MEASURE OF ANTI-AHIDJO CONTENT WHICH THE PRESIDENT APPARENTLY TAKES SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO MERIT A PUBLIC AIRING AND COUNTER-ATTACK. RUMORS MAY HAVE BEEN SPURRED BY PRESIDENT OCCASIONALLY EVIDENCING DEJECTION (AS IMPLIED PARA 4), AND SPREAD BY ELEMENTS DISCONTENTED WITH HIS STEWARDSHIP. LATTER DO OF COURSE EXIST, BUT AHIDJO--WHILE LACKING IN CHARISMA

--ENJOYS WIDESPREAD RESPECT IF NOT THE AFFECTION OF
CAMEROONIANS, IS CREDITED WITH BEING THE MASTERFUL ARCHI-
TECT OF CAMEROONIAN UNITY, AND IS ACCEPTED AS THE LEADER
WITH UNMATCHED CAPABILITY TO ENHANCE THAT UNITY AND MOVE
CAMEROON FORWARD.

MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY MEETINGS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ALLEGATIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975YAOUND00232
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750024-0071
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayun.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 YAOUNDE A-7, 75 JANUARY 20, 75 1975, 75 YAOUNDE 223
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-PARTY CONGRESS RUMORS RE AHIDJO WITHDRAWAL
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CM, UNC, (AHIDJO, AHMADOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006